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PROGRAM Sen. Allen J. Ellender

STATION WWL Radio

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CPYRGHT

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

SENATOR ELLENDER: "As to the situation in the Dominican Republic, I am not at all sure that our course of action there is well-advised. It seems to me unthinkable that such a serious revolt could have occurred in that small nation without our intelligence authorities being aware of the impending danger, and, in turn, advising the President. I believe there should have been time enough for the United States to take the problem in advance to the Organization of American States in an attempt to gain some support for a joint course of action. It looks very bad for us to send the Marines in there on a unilateral basis in order to protect our own nationals and the nationals of other countries. Why should we be called upon to do that all alone? Considering the fact that we have now sent in about 14,000 Marines to protect 1,500 American citizens, the picture looks even worse.

"Already we are suspected of taking sides in the revolution, and of favoring one group over another. It may be that the Marines were necessary to protect the Republic from falling under a Communist dictatorship aided and abetted by that scoundrel Castro. But already several Latin American nations have denounced our action, and I suspect that we will come in for a great deal more international criticism before we are done. The criticisms do not worry me, of course, for I have taken a good deal of it personally during my time in the Senate. It seems to me, however, that it would have been much better if we had taken timely steps to obtain assistance from our Latin American allies.

"While speaking of the Dominican Republic, I cannot help mentioning that since the overthrow of Trujillo in 1961, we have given to that country \$104 million in economic aid, exclusive of 1965, the current fiscal year. A great many more aid dollars are in the pipeline, and the economic conditions are incomparably worse now than when the island was under Trujillo's control. Yet in the years of Trujillo, we gave to his nation only about \$4 million of economic and military aid.

Political conditions are also much worse, for there have been four more or less violent changes of government in the Republic in the last

four years. There is no doubt that Trujillo was a dictator of the first rank, but he also was an able administrator and leader, who used the resources of his nation for the benefit of his people."